

REMARKS

Claims 4 to 51 remain in this application. Claim 1 has been cancelled.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1 and 4 to 51 as being anticipated by Weinberg et al. (US Patent No. 6,144,962).

Claim 4 recites a framework comprising:

- (a) a process level for selecting a set of defined process steps to be applied to a data set associated with a set of activities;
- (b) **a sub-process level including an aggregation of selected activities from said set of activities**, said sub-process level for facilitating navigation between ones of said selected activities; and
- (c) an activity level including at least one activity from said set of activities; **wherein said at least one activity having a property in said data set that is modified as a result of the applied processing of said activity level to produce an output data set.**

Weinberg et al. describes a visual Website analysis program which is used to display a website map having a set of objects such as HTML documents, images in various formats, mail messages, etc.(col. 8 lines 32-50 and figs 1-3). Weinberg et al. then further describes the “creation of sub-views which reveal URL-specific information about the Website” by highlighting a region and zooming-in that region (col. 10 lines 1-9), and the clicking of an URL icon in order to view an URL’s properties or,for example, editing the HTML document (col. 10 lines 16-31).

If, as suggested by the Examiner, an analogy is drawn between element b of Claim 4, “**sub-process level including an aggregation of selected activities from said set of activities**” and “the sub-views which reveal URL-specific information about the Website” from Weinberg et al., it is then suggested that the HTML documents, images, mail messages etc. are analogous to the “activities” of Claim 4. The Applicants respectfully submit that in the claimed invention an “activity” is defined as a component that is used to display, edit or create data, such as, for

example, a volume rendering component, light control or clipping tool (page 5 lines 14-21), while in Weinberg et al. an “activity” represents a piece of data such as an HTML document or an image. In Claim 4, the term “activity” refers to a component having a tangible effect upon data while in Weinberg et al. it refers to the data itself. For example, in the invention as claimed by Claim 4, a light control component (the **activity**) applied to data will modify **(the applied processing of said activity)** the luminosity of the data **(the activity property in said data set)** and produce an image with new luminosity properties **(the output data set)**. By opposition, an HTML document or image, as disclosed in Weinberg et al., is data upon which processing is applied, and not a processing activity. Thus clearly the basic element of the claimed invention, the “activity”, present in element c of Claim 4, “an activity level including at least one activity from said set of activities; **wherein said at least one activity having a property in said data set that is modified as a result of the applied processing of said activity level to produce an output data set**” is not taught by Weinberg et al.

Accordingly, it is believed that Claim 4 presently on file clearly and patentably distinguishes over the Weinberg et al. reference and as such is in condition for allowance. Furthermore, Claims 5-32 presently on file being dependent upon Claim 4, it is believed they also clearly and patentably distinguish over the Weinberg et al. reference.

Claim 33, as recognized by the Examiner, is a method claim of Claim 4, thus the same arguments as per Claim 4 apply to Claim 33.

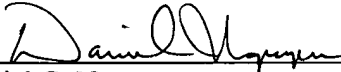
Accordingly, it is believed that Claim 33 presently on file clearly and patentably distinguishes over the Weinberg et al. reference and as such is in condition for allowance. Furthermore, Claims 34-51 presently on file being dependent upon Claim 33, it is believed they also clearly and patentably distinguish over the Weinberg et al. reference.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Dated: March 29, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Daniel G. Nguyen

Registration No.: 42,933

JENKENS & GILCHRIST, A PROFESSIONAL
CORPORATION

5 Houston Center

1401 McKinney, Suite 2700

Houston, Texas 77010

(713) 951-3354

(713) 951-3314 Facsimile